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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

5 May 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, Development Branch, JPD-DD/P
SUBJECT : Trip Report on Project NURAL

1. PURPOSE: To coordinate LNSD comments on the Itak proposal for Project []

2. GENERAL:

(a) Meeting was held in Boston on 2 May 1961 with [] and myself from Headquarters, meeting with the Itak Project [] staff.

(b) Generally speaking there was little area of conflict with the LNSD comments other than a few "emotional" fears that LNSD was trying to retain Itak as a subcontractor even though they had been given the name of "associate." For example, I feel that certain LNSD operations and check-out personnel should be indoctrinated as the "W" covers to insure compatibility and harmony in a team function. The immediate "fear" was that they wanted "training" for maintenance and other functions that in Headquarters opinion are clearly an Itak responsibility. I feel that these areas and the relationship of the SETD were adequately explained and while a few individuals may still be skeptical, they won't fight the terminology and we can complete negotiations as soon as cost data and contract type are finalized.

3. SPECIFIC DATA:

(a) Clock Interfacing: Itak questioned LNSD's request for a "simulator" to check the binary recording head to be furnished by Itak. Itak proposes only to check the recording head for proper recording on the film in accordance with a drawing furnished to [] Itak does not intend to make a clock simulator as such. I have asked LNSD to verify this item.

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(b) Target Simulators: The current Itak proposal calls for two target simulators (one for Itak and one for LMSD). I could see no need for a simulator at VAFB, but to clear the air on this possibility, I have queried LMSD to verify that they are aware of the distribution of the two simulators and know that VAFB will not be getting one.

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(c) Auxiliary Frame Camera [redacted] and myself held a short side conference on the feelings of HPIC in regard to the auxiliary frame camera. (See letter from [redacted] dated 1 May 1961). At a quick look it appears that the thought of reorienting this camera into a stellar recording position is difficult and would result in some significant delay. As it stands, Itak is confident of having an auxiliary frame (terrain) camera on the first engineering shot early next year. [redacted] stated that HPIC would prefer to have this item in its proposed position rather than jeopardizing the availability of an auxiliary camera. This instance, however, does point out the need for early and continuous coordination with using personnel from HPIC in the design phases of the various projects.

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(d) Possible Slip of Some C¹ Units to 1962: [redacted] pointed out that C¹ support items should not be changed to MMAL items without Headquarters approval since the possibility exists that one or more C¹ units may slip into next year. I would like to submit a personal recommendation that Headquarters consider refurbishing any possible left over C¹ units into the convergent (M) configuration. Even if only one were left over, I feel it would pay to order the other portions of the unit and make a stereo convergent subsystem since the vast majority of the cost is in the vehicle. We would still have three C¹ units and one A left to fill any vehicle remaining, if we could not afford to buy additional MMAL systems.

(e) Spare Parts: It was recommended that a list of spare parts be prepared by Itak and forwarded to Headquarters and the SETD. Shortly after SETD has this list or simultaneously with receipt, a spare parts provisioning conference is recommended in order to quickly arrive at a coordinated schedule for spares. Critical long lead items are already under procurement.

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3-SA/TA/DFD
1-CH/COMINT/DFD
524-DFD/DB
7-DFD/RI

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